

**Community Governance Review – St Albans City & District Council**  
**Final Recommendations – 7 December 2022**

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## **Introduction to the review**

St Albans City and District Council (“the Council”) is carrying out a district-wide Community Governance Review (CGR) in accordance with the *Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007* (“the 2007 Act”). The Council is required to have regard to the *Guidance on Community Governance Reviews* issued by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

In addition, the CGR has been conducted with reference to:

- The terms of reference for the CGR (Available at: [https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/Terms%20of%20Reference\\_St%20Albans%20City%20%26%20District\\_Community%20Governance%20Review.pdf](https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/Terms%20of%20Reference_St%20Albans%20City%20%26%20District_Community%20Governance%20Review.pdf))
- *The Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008*
- *The Local Government Finance (New Parishes) (England) Regulations 2008*
- The Association of Electoral Administrators: *Member Support Project – Community Governance Reviews in England* (2022)

On 4 November 2021, the Council’s Policy Committee approved the CGR’s timetable and terms of reference:

- Agenda, minutes, and webcast available at: <https://stalbands.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=611&MId=10452&Ver=4>

On 23 June 2022, the Council’s Policy Committee approved the draft recommendations which formed the basis of the second consultation:

- Agenda, minutes, and webcast available at: <https://stalbands.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=611&MId=10609&Ver=4>

On 24 November 2022, the Council’s Policy Committee noted a report on the recommendations arising from the second consultation and requested that Full Council endorse and approve those recommendations:

- Agenda, minutes, and webcast available at: <https://stalbands.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=611&MId=10611&Ver=4>

## **What is a Community Governance Review (CGR)?**

A CGR provides an opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries, which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. A CGR can take place for the whole or part of a local government area, and can consider one or more of the following:

- (a) Creating, merging, altering or abolishing Parishes / Town Councils;
- (b) The naming of parishes and the style of new Parishes / Town Councils;
- (c) The electoral arrangements for Parishes / Town Councils including:
  - the ordinary year of election;
  - the number of councillors to be elected; and
  - the warding (if any) of the Parish / Town Councils.
- (d) Grouping parishes under a common Parish Council or degrouping parishes.

Community governance within the area under review should be:

- (a) reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- (b) effective and convenient.

## **Why is this CGR being conducted?**

During 2019/2020, the LGBCE conducted a review of the district ward boundaries in St Albans City and District. The outcome of this LGBCE review altered district ward boundaries which had been shared with Parish / Town Council boundaries. One of the aims of the CGR is to consider bringing those Parish / Town Council boundaries into line with the new district ward boundaries.

The LGBCE review also made some subsequent alterations to the warding arrangements of some Parish / Town Councils in the district. *The St Albans District Council (Electoral Changes) Order 2021*, published at the end of the LGBCE review, outlines these changes. The “current” parish warding arrangements referred to throughout this report are the warding arrangements put in place by *The St Albans District Council (Electoral Changes) Order 2021*.

In addition, the Council wished to undertake a CGR for the whole of the district to ensure that all localities had an opportunity to express a view on community governance. The Council wants Parish / Town Councils to play an important part in community empowerment at a local level and wishes to ensure the parish governance in the district continues to be robust, representative of the locality and able to meet future challenges

Government guidance states that it is good practice to conduct a full CGR at least every 10 to 15 years. The Council has not undertaken a CGR since that guidance was issued so therefore wished to review the community governance of the district to ensure that there is clarity and transparency to the areas that Parish Councils / Town Councils represent and that the electoral arrangements of Parishes / Town Councils (the warding arrangements and the allocations of councillors) are appropriate, equitable and understood by their electorate.

## **Review timetable**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Approval of timetable and terms of reference for the CGR by the Council's Policy Committee	4 November 2021
Formal commencement of the CGR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Key stakeholders contacted</li><li>○ Details of the CGR published online</li></ul>	4 January 2022
Initial public consultation stage	4 January to 31 March 2022
Approval of the draft recommendations by the Council's Policy Committee	23 June 2022
Draft recommendations published	1 July 2022
Public consultation on the draft recommendations	1 July to 16 September 2022
Report to Policy Committee on the recommendations arising from the public consultation on the draft recommendations	24 November 2022
Final recommendations submitted to Full Council	7 December 2022
Community Governance Reorganisation Order made	January 2023
Publication of the electoral register on the new boundaries and electoral arrangements	1 February 2023
Parish / Town Council elections to be held on the new boundaries and electoral arrangements	4 May 2023

## **Background information**

See Appendix 1 for a map of the current and proposed parish / parish ward boundaries.

## **Current parish arrangements**

N.B. As per *The St Albans District Council (Electoral Changes) Order 2021*

<b>Parish / Town Council</b>	<b>Parish / Town ward</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>
Colney Heath	Alban Park	2
	Colney Heath	3
	Hill End	3
	Tyttenhanger	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
Harpenden Rural	Unwarded	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>
Harpenden Town	Harpenden East	4
	Harpenden North	4
	Harpenden South	4
	Harpenden West	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>
London Colney	London Colney	7
	Napsbury Park	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
Redbourn	Beaumont	6
	Nicholls	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>
Sandridge	Beech Bottom	1
	Marshalswick East & Jersey Farm	8
	Marshalswick West	3
	Sandridge Village	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>
St Michael	St Michael North	3
	St Michael South	3
	St Michael South East	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>
St. Stephen	Bricket Wood & Chiswell Green	7
	Park Street	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>
Wheathampstead	Aldwickbury	1
	Wheathampstead Village	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

## **Electorate forecasts**

Government guidance recommends that, when considering electoral arrangements during a CGR, consideration should be given to any likely changes in the numbers of electors in the area during the five-year period from the start of the CGR. The predicted future electorates (for 2027) are provided for each recommendation. Background information and further detail about the electorate forecasts is available in our “Electorate Forecasting Methodology” at: [https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/CGR%20SADC\\_Forecasting%20methodology.pdf](https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/CGR%20SADC_Forecasting%20methodology.pdf).

## **Public consultations**

Two periods of consultation were held during the review:

- 4 January to 31 March 2022 – Initial public consultation stage

This consultation stage provided an opportunity for the public and key stakeholders to let the Council know of any view they might have on the present community governance arrangements in the district. This period offered a broad opportunity to let the Council know of any suggestions or concerns about how well the community governance arrangements operate in the district. 50 responses were received and reported to the Council’s Policy Committee on 23 June 2022 (see section 8, Appendix 1 in the relevant Policy agenda: <https://stalbands.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=611&MId=10609&Ver=4>)

- 1 July to 16 September 2022 – Public consultation on the draft recommendations

Following the initial consultation stage, the Council’s Policy Committee approved a set of draft recommendations on 23 June 2022. These draft recommendations formed the basis of the second round of consultation. 180 responses were received and reported to the Council’s Policy Committee on 24 November 2022 (see section 11, Appendix 1 in the relevant Policy agenda: <https://stalbands.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=611&MId=10611&Ver=4>)

The following community engagement and publicity was undertaken during the CGR:

- Presentations were given at parish conferences on 8 September 2021 and 7 September 2022.



- At the start of the CGR, a dedicated webpage was published providing information about the CGR, including maps, the terms of reference, and the timetable (<https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/community-governance-review>).
- In early January 2022, key stakeholders were contacted to notify them of the CGR and of the start of the first round of consultation (see Appendix 2 for a list of key stakeholders). Key stakeholders were contacted again in early July with a copy of the draft recommendations and details of the second round of consultation.
- Leaflets and posters about the CGR were displayed in the Civic Centre, and leaflets were posted to Parish / Town Councils, libraries, leisure centres and doctors' surgeries across the district.
- The CGR was publicised via news releases, Facebook posts, and Community News articles.
- During January and February 2022, online meetings were held between council officers and Parish / Town Councils and residents' associations.
- During the second round of consultation, letters were sent to residential properties in the following areas:
  - Polling districts CHA, CHB, CHC (draft recommendation 1)
  - Polling districts HLC and HLD (draft recommendation 1)
  - 1, 2, and 3 Rose Walk (draft recommendation 2a)
  - Polling districts PSB and LCE (draft recommendation 3a)
  - Polling district HSC (draft recommendation 4)
  - Polling districts SSA and SSB (draft recommendation 5)

These letters provided information on the draft recommendation directly affecting each property, as well as explaining why the Council was seeking views on the draft recommendation. All households were invited to let the Council know their views.

## **Final recommendations**

The following recommendations were proposed by the Council's Policy Committee on 24 November 2022 and will be put before Full Council on 7 December 2022 for approval.

### **List of final recommendations**

Recommendation 1 [a]:

To alter the outer boundary of Colney Heath Parish Council to match that of the Colney Heath District ward and remove parish representation from those residents of Hill End District Council ward who are presently represented on Colney Heath Parish Council.

Recommendation 1 [b]:

The number of councillors for Colney Heath Parish Council is reduced from 9 to 7. Colney Heath parish ward is represented by 6 councillors, and Tyttenhanger parish ward is represented by 1 councillor.

Recommendation 2 [a]:

To alter the outer boundary of Sandridge Parish Council to include the presently unparished properties at numbers 1, 2 and 3 Rose Walk within the Parish.

Recommendation 2 [b]:

To divide Marshalswick East and Jersey Farm parish ward of Sandridge Parish Council into two parish wards named Marshalswick East parish ward and Jersey Farm parish ward.

Recommendation 3 [a]:

To alter the northern boundary of London Colney Parish Council to run along the A414 from London Colney roundabout westward to its junction with the east midlands railway line, thereby including the following presently unparished properties within the London Colney Parish Council area: numbers 1-24 North Cottages and 10, 12, 14 and 37 Suffolk Close.

Recommendation 3 [b]:

To divide the London Colney parish ward of London Colney Parish Council into two parish wards named London Colney North West parish ward and London Colney East & South parish ward.

Recommendation 4:

To alter the boundary between Wheathampstead Parish Council and Harpenden Town Council, so that all properties in Long Buftlers, Croftwell, Poynings Close, Aldwickbury School and numbers 82-104 (evens only) Wheathampstead Road, presently part of Wheathampstead Parish Council, become part of Harpenden Parish Council.

Recommendation 5 [a]:

To alter the parish boundary between St Michael Parish Council and St. Stephen Parish Council that presently splits Ragged Hall Lane so that the parish boundary follows the new District Ward boundary running along the A414 westward from its junction with Watford Road to Park Wood, thereby including 2-110 Ragged Hall Lane (evens only) and 74-84 Watford Road (evens only) with St. Stephen Parish Council area.

Recommendation 5 [b]:

St Michael Parish Council retains 7 councillors. St Michael North ward is represented by 3 councillors and St Michael South ward by 4 councillors.

Recommendation 5 [c]:

Bricket Wood & Chiswell Green parish ward of St. Stephen Parish Council is divided into two parish wards named Bricket Wood parish ward and Chiswell Green parish ward.

## Overview: Parish areas and councils

Parish / Town	Existing or new parish?	Area retained, abolished or altered?	Name retained or amended ?	Parish / Town Council	Existing or new council?
Colney Heath Parish	Existing	Altered	Retained	Colney Heath Parish Council	Existing
Harpenden Rural Parish	Existing	Retained	Retained	Harpenden Rural Parish Council	Existing
Harpenden Town	Existing	Altered	Retained	Harpenden Town Council	Existing
London Colney Parish	Existing	Altered	Retained	London Colney Parish Council	Existing
Redbourn Parish	Existing	Retained	Retained	Redbourn Parish Council	Existing
Sandridge Parish	Existing	Altered	Retained	Sandridge Parish Council	Existing
St Michael Parish	Existing	Altered	Retained	St Michael Parish Council	Existing
St. Stephen Parish	Existing	Altered	Retained	St. Stephen Parish Council	Existing
Wheathampstead Parish	Existing	Altered	Retained	Wheathampstead Parish Council	Existing

No new parishes will be created as an outcome of the CGR. Harpenden Rural Parish and Redbourn Parish are unchanged. The current parishes in the district are retained, with alterations to the outer boundaries of the following parishes:

- Colney Heath
  - See background and reasoning for Recommendation 1 [a]
- Harpenden Town
  - See background and reasoning for Recommendation 4
- London Colney
  - See background and reasoning for Recommendation 3 [a]
- Sandridge
  - See background and reasoning for Recommendation 2 [a]
- St Michael
  - See background and reasoning for Recommendation 5 [a]
- St. Stephen
  - See background and reasoning for Recommendation 5 [a]
- Wheathampstead
  - See background and reasoning for Recommendation 4

The existing Parish / Town Councils in the district are retained, with alterations to some councillor numbers per council / parish ward. See the “Background and Reasoning”, and “Warding Arrangements” sections for further information.

## Overview: Councillor numbers of Parish / Town Councils

The current overall councillor numbers for each Parish / Town Council are retained, except for Colney Heath Parish Council where the number of councillors will decrease from nine to seven (see Recommendation 1 [b]). Due to changes in warding arrangements, the number of councillors for some parish wards will change as follows (see the “Warding Arrangements” section for information on the councillor to electorate ratios):

Parish / Town Council	Parish / Town ward	Number of councillors	Number of councillors changed or retained?
Colney Heath	Colney Heath	6	Changed – Increase due to change of Parish Council boundary and abolition of two parish wards
	Tyttenhanger	1	Retained
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	Changed
Harpenden Rural	Unwarded	5	Retained
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	Retained
Harpenden Town	Harpenden East	4	Retained
	Harpenden North	4	Retained
	Harpenden South	4	Retained
	Harpenden West	4	Retained
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	Retained
London Colney	London Colney East & South	3	Changed - New ward
	London Colney North West	4	Changed - New ward
	Napsbury Park	2	Retained
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	Retained
Redbourn	Beaumont	6	Retained
	Nicholls	6	Retained
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	Retained
Sandridge	Beech Bottom	1	Retained
	Jersey Farm	3	Changed - New ward
	Marshalswick East	5	Changed - New ward
	Marshalswick West	3	Retained
	Sandridge Village	2	Retained
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	Retained

St Michael	St Michael North	3	Retained
	St Michael South	4	Changed - Increase of 1 councillor as a result of the abolition of St Michael South East ward (1 councillor)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	Retained
St. Stephen	Bricket Wood	4	Changed - New ward
	Chiswell Green	3	Changed - New ward
	Park Street	5	Retained
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	Retained
Wheathampstead	Unwarded	12	Changed - The parish has become unwarded with the abolition of Aldwickbury ward (1 councillor) and Wheathampstead Village ward (11 councillors)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	Retained

## **Background and reasoning for final recommendations**

Recommendation 1 [a]:

To alter the outer boundary of Colney Heath Parish Council to match that of the Colney Heath District ward and remove parish representation from those residents of Hill End District Council ward who are presently represented on Colney Heath Parish Council.

- **Detail**

Map: see Appendices 3 and 4

Parish boundaries and wards:

The outer parish boundary of Colney Heath Parish Council will be altered to follow the Colney Heath district ward boundary. This will abolish the parish wards of Alban Park and Hill End and will remove parish representation from residents in those areas. The parish wards of Colney Heath and Tyttenhanger will be retained.

Councillor numbers:

The number of councillors on Colney Heath Parish Council will be reduced from nine to seven, with Colney Heath parish ward represented by six councillors and Tyttenhanger parish ward represented by one councillor. See Recommendation 1 [b].

- **Background**

The LGBCE review resulted in the reduction in size of Colney Heath district ward to create a single member ward. This current Colney Heath district ward comprises the Colney Heath Parish Council wards of Colney Heath parish ward and Tyttenhanger parish ward. The LGBCE's final recommendations report stated that, as a result of their review, they were "persuaded that the geography of this area of the district, and the lack of community links to neighbouring villages, justifies this departure from the principle of three-member wards".

During the first round of consultation, all of the comments received relating to Colney Heath Parish Council (10 responses) proposed a reduction in the geographical area covered by the Parish Council. A majority wanted the new parish boundary to be aligned with the newly created district council ward of Colney Heath. One response did express concern about the financial viability of a smaller parish and looked to financial support from the District Council in the event of the parish reducing in size.

During the second round of consultation, 159 responses were received in relation to Colney Heath Parish Council:

- 66 expressed their support for the draft recommendation
- 15 opposed the draft recommendation

- 74 submitted a comment regarding the establishment of a Highfield / Hill End Parish council but did not provide a view on the draft recommendation
- 4 provided a general comment again with no view on the draft recommendation.

- **Reasoning**

The 74 submissions who submitted a particular comment were strongly in favour of a parish council being established for the Highfield area. The option to establish a new parish council was not included in either consultation exercise because no such suggestion had been received prior to the start of the second consultation period. Therefore, this proposal has not undergone scrutiny by Colney Heath Parish Council residents, and the Council does not have substantial and reliable evidence in relation to the desirability and viability of establishing a Highfield Parish Council for the Hill End / Highfield community.

The settlements at Colney Heath village, Tyttenhanger and Smallford are distinct from the urban area of St Albans city, with the edge of the built-up urban area between Colney Heath and Hill End district wards acting as a natural boundary. The geography of the urban area around Highfield and Hill End lacks community links to these neighbouring rural areas. This is evidenced by representations received from residents in all parts of the current Colney Heath Parish Council area. During their 2019/2021 review of district ward boundaries, the LGBCE found that the geography of the south-eastern area of the district warranted the establishment of Colney Heath district ward (covering the rural areas of Colney Heath village, Sleapshyde, Smallford and Tyttenhanger). It is therefore likely that a smaller parish focused on the rural areas of Colney Heath, Tyttenhanger and Smallford will better reflect community identities and interests, and more effectively serve the residents of these areas.

Parish representation will be removed from the areas of Colney Heath Parish Council that fall within the Hill End District ward. Section 88 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides for a community governance review to recommend the alteration of the area of, or the abolition of, an existing parish as a result of a review. The area of altered or abolished parishes does not have to be redistributed to other parishes; an area can become unparished. It is the Government's view that changing a parish area (or part of a parish area) into an unparished area is "undesirable unless that area is amalgamated with an existing unparished urban area". This circumstance applies to the Highfield/Hill End area of Colney Heath parish where there is no discernible boundary between this area and the urban, unparished area of St Albans.



Recommendation 1 [b]:

The number of councillors for Colney Heath Parish Council is reduced from 9 to 7. Colney Heath parish ward is represented by 6 councillors, and Tyttenhanger parish ward is represented by 1 councillor.

- **Detail**

Map: see Appendices 3 and 4

Parish boundaries and wards:

The outer parish boundary of Colney Heath Parish Council will be altered to follow the Colney Heath district ward boundary (see Recommendation 1 [a]). This will abolish the parish wards of Alban Park and Hill End and will remove parish representation from residents in those areas. The parish wards of Colney Heath and Tyttenhanger will be retained.

Councillor numbers:

The number of councillors on Colney Heath Parish Council will be reduced from nine to seven, with Colney Heath parish ward represented by six councillors and Tyttenhanger parish ward represented by one councillor.

- **Background**

Recommendation 1 [a] reduces the size of the area of Colney Heath parish. The parish wards of Alban Park and Hill End are abolished, reducing the number of electors in the parish by approximately 2459 electors (based on the predicted 2027 electorate for the wards).

In relation to a reduced rural Colney Heath Parish Council, a response was submitted during the initial consultation stating “[n]ine Councillors is probably too many for a relatively small rural Parish”.

Colney Heath Parish Council’s submission during the second round of consultation stated:

“52. On the basis of the advice provided [by the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the National Association of Local Councils] the recommended number of councillors for the proposed Colney Heath Parish Council electorate would remain at 9, however considering the Parish is splitting this it would seem at odds to retain the same number of councillors. 53. The Parish Council would ask that the District Council to ensure they consider the potential increase to the electorate from the current pre-applications and planning applications in the proposed rural parish [...] 54. With these current planning applications plus the many other sites noted in the

Neighbourhood Plan call for sites coming in the next 12 months serious consideration should be given to retaining 9 councillors for the rural Colney Heath Parish Council – with 5 representing Colney Heath Village, 2 Smallford, 1 Tyttenhanger and 1 Sleepshyde”.

- **Reasoning**

When producing electorate forecasts for the CGR, the forecasting guidance published by the LGBCE has been used to calculate a predicted electorate per polling district for 2026/2027. Sites which were identified in the Council’s housing trajectory as being at the stage of pre-application discussions were not included in our calculations. This is due to the level of uncertainty regarding whether these sites will gain planning approval, finish being built and become occupied by 2026/2027. Further information about how we used the housing trajectory to produce electorate forecasts can be found in our “Electorate Forecasting Methodology”, available at: [https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/CGR%20SADC\\_Forecasting%20methodology.pdf](https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/CGR%20SADC_Forecasting%20methodology.pdf).

Due to the reduction in size of the area Colney Heath Parish, and the related reduction in the electorate (from a predicted 2027 electorate of 4690 to 2231), it is recommended that councillor numbers be reduced from nine to seven, with the current parish wards of Colney Heath and Tyttenhanger being retained. The existing boundary between Colney Heath parish ward and Tyttenhanger parish ward must be retained due to the Hertfordshire County Council division boundary which runs between these two areas.

Legislation states that the minimum number of councillors a parish council can have is five. However, there is no legislative guidance in relation to the number of electors per parish councillor.

The change to the parish will result in the following electoral arrangements for Colney Heath Parish Council:

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Parish Ward</b>	<b>Predicted electorate for 2027</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Colney Heath	Colney Heath	2041	6
Colney Heath	Tyttenhanger	190	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>2231</b>	<b>7</b>

Colney Heath parish ward will contain 91.48% of electors in Colney Heath Parish Council, while Tyttenhanger parish ward will contain 8.52% of electors. Colney Heath parish ward will therefore be represented by six parish councillors and Tyttenhanger parish ward by one councillor.

## **Recommendation 2 [a]:**

To alter the outer boundary of Sandridge Parish Council to include the currently unparished properties at numbers 1, 2 and 3 Rose Walk within the Parish.

- **Detail**

Map: see Appendices 5 and 6

Parish boundaries and wards:

The outer boundary of Sandridge Parish Council / Marshalswick East parish ward will be extended to include 1, 2 and 3 Rose Walk. The existing parish wards of Beech Bottom, Marshalswick West, and Sandridge Village will be retained. The existing Marshalswick East & Jersey Farm parish ward will be split into Jersey Farm parish ward and Marshalswick East parish ward (see recommendation 2 [b]).

Councillor numbers:

The overall number of councillors for Sandridge Parish Council will be retained at 14. The following parish wards will retain their current number of councillors: Beech Bottom (one parish councillor), Marshalswick West (three parish councillors), Sandridge Village (two parish councillors). The new parish wards of Jersey Farm and Marshalswick East will be represented by the remaining eight parish councillors. Marshalswick East parish ward will be represented by five parish councillors and Jersey Farm parish ward by three parish councillors. (see recommendation 2 [b]).

- **Background**

In all five responses received during the first round of consultation, there was a wish not to alter the Sandridge Parish Council and there was no desire for it to be aligned with the new district ward boundary. It was suggested that to do so would divide a community with a strong identity, while retaining the present arrangements would be effective and convenient. The exception to this was that two responses commented that a small part of the southern end of Rose Walk (1, 2 and 3) should be included within Sandridge Parish Council alongside the rest of Rose Walk which is already in the parish.

In the second round of consultation, no responses were received relating to this proposal.

- **Reasoning**

Altering the Sandridge Parish Council boundary to include 1, 2, 3 Rose Walk is a minor change which rectifies a historic anomaly. This alteration provides a clear, identifiable boundary which better reflects the local community in that area.

See Recommendation 2 [b] for electorate forecasts.

## **Recommendation 2 [b]:**

To divide Marshalswick East and Jersey Farm parish ward of Sandridge Parish Council into two parish wards named Marshalswick East parish ward and Jersey Farm parish ward.

- **Detail:**

Map: see Appendices 5 and 6

Parish ward names and boundaries:

The existing Marshalswick East and Jersey Farm parish ward will be divided into two parish wards: Marshalswick East parish ward and Jersey Farm parish ward. The boundary between the wards will run along Jersey Lane.

Councillor numbers:

The overall number of councillors for Sandridge Parish Council will be retained at 14. The following parish wards will retain their current number of councillors: Beech Bottom (one parish councillor), Marshalswick West (three parish councillors), Sandridge Village (two parish councillors). The new parish wards of Jersey Farm and Marshalswick East will be represented by the remaining eight parish councillors. Marshalswick East parish ward will be represented by five parish councillors and Jersey Farm parish ward by three parish councillors.

- **Background:**

From Sandridge Parish Council's submission during the first round of consultation:

"Please consider not putting Marshalswick East and Jersey Farm in a single ward (8 seats). The Parish Council would like two wards of four seats each to allow more local representation with each place."

From Marshalswick North Residents Association during the first round of consultation:

"[Sandridge Parish Council's] view is that Marshalswick East and Jersey Farm should be two separate parish electoral wards with four parish councillor seats in each. MNRA fully supports this view, which reflects how people identify with their respective communities within the parish."

No other responses were received in relation to the warding arrangements of Sandridge Parish Council.

- **Reasoning:**

Jersey Lane runs between polling districts MEA and MEB and creates a natural boundary. It therefore seems reasonable for the parish ward boundary to follow the current polling district boundary.

This new parish ward boundary will result in the following electoral arrangements for Sandridge Parish Council:

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Parish Ward</b>	<b>Predicted electorate for 2027</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Sandridge	Beech Bottom	122	1
Sandridge	Jersey Farm	2513	3
Sandridge	Marshalswick East	3267	5
Sandridge	Marshalswick West	1883	3
Sandridge	Sandridge Village	1346	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9131</b>	<b>14</b>

Jersey Farm parish ward will contain 43.48% of the electors in the current Marshalswick East & Jersey Farm parish ward, while Marshalswick East parish ward will contain 56.52% of the electors. Jersey Farm parish ward will therefore be represented by three parish councillors and Marshalswick East parish ward by five parish councillors. The reason for the proposal of one three-member and one five-member ward (rather than the two four-member wards suggested by Sandridge Parish Council) is the difference between the electorates of the two wards.

### **Recommendation 3 [a]:**

To alter the northern boundary of London Colney Parish Council to run along the A414 from London Colney roundabout westward to its junction with the east midlands railway line, thereby including the following presently unparished properties within the London Colney Parish Council area: numbers 1-24 North Cottages and 10, 12, 14 and 37 Suffolk Close.

- **Detail**

Map: see Appendices 7 and 8

Parish boundary and wards:

The outer boundary of London Colney parish will be extended northwards to include 1-24 North Cottages and 10, 12, 14 and 37 Suffolk Close. The existing Napsbury Park parish ward will be extended to include 1-24 North Cottages. The existing London Colney parish ward will be split into London Colney North West parish ward, including 10, 12, 14 and 37 Suffolk Close, and London Colney East & South parish ward (see Recommendation 3 [b]).

Councillor numbers:

The overall number of parish councillors for London Colney Parish Council will be retained at nine. Napsbury Park will retain the current number of parish councillors (two parish councillors). The new parish wards of London Colney North West parish ward and London Colney East & South parish ward will be represented by the remaining seven parish councillors. London Colney North West parish ward will be represented by four parish councillors and London Colney East & South parish ward will be represented by three parish councillors (see Recommendation 3 [b]).

- **Background**

As a result of the recent LGBCE review, the district ward boundaries around London Colney (the current district wards of Cunningham, London Colney, and Park Street) were extended and are now out of line with the London Colney Parish boundary. As per the terms of reference for the CGR, it was the Council's wish to consider bringing these boundaries back into alignment where such amendments are supported by CGR principles.

During the initial CGR consultation, London Colney Parish Council supported the proposal to extend the parish boundary northwards. Two residents also supported this change and raised the prospect of altering the parish boundary between London Colney Parish Council and St. Stephen Parish Council.

During the second round of consultation, three responses were received on this draft recommendation, one in favour and two against. London Colney Parish Council

agreed with the proposed boundary alteration but requested that the parish wards have an east / west split rather than the proposed north / south split (see Recommendation 3 [b]). One resident simply opposed the change while the second expressed concern that moving the parish boundary to include their property would have an adverse effect on its value and would result in the levying of a parish precept. Government guidance does not include property values or parish precepts as valid considerations when conducting a CGR.

- **Reasoning**

The parish boundary change will see properties presently in an un-parished area becoming part of London Colney Parish Council. The outer parish boundary will include all of London Colney district ward and the area around Napsbury Park, therefore assisting with community cohesion. The change will see the boundary follow a firm man-made feature (the A414), something which Government guidance promotes.

While the suggested move of the southern and western parish boundaries would have the advantage of utilising a firm man-made feature, it would not bring about an obvious union. It is likely that residents living south of Harper Lane would have a connection with nearby Radlett (a town out of borough), while the area between the Napsbury Park parish ward boundary and the M25 contains no residential properties and therefore offers no improvement in governance arrangements.



### **Recommendation 3 [b]:**

To divide the London Colney parish ward of London Colney Parish Council into two parish wards named London Colney North West parish ward and London Colney East & South parish ward.

- **Detail:**

Map: see Appendices 7 and 8

Parish ward names and boundaries:

The existing London Colney parish ward will be divided into two parish wards: London Colney North West parish ward and London Colney East & South parish ward. The northern boundary of London Colney North West parish ward will be extended to include 10, 12, 14 and 37 Suffolk Close (see Recommendation 3 [a]). The boundary between the wards will run down the High Street to the River Colne bridge and then follow the river westwards to the boundary with Napsbury parish ward.

Councillor numbers:

London Colney North West parish ward will be represented by four parish councillors and London Colney East & South parish ward will be represented by three parish councillors.

- **Background:**

From London Colney Parish Council's response to the first round of consultation:

"We would consider the division of the parish into two roughly equal wards, perhaps along an east/west divide with the High Street, another manmade structure, as a boundary line."

From London Colney Parish Council's response to the second round of consultation:

"We welcome that the District Council have taken on board the suggestion from the Parish Council to further divide the proposed 7 member London Colney Parish Ward into two further wards along a North/South split. However, we still maintain that an East/West divide, predominantly with the border of the two wards along the High Street, would be easier to administer and for residents to understand."

No other responses were received in relation to the warding arrangements of London Colney Parish Council.

- **Reasoning:**

Splitting the existing London Colney parish ward in two brings the councillor numbers for each ward more into line with the two-member Napsbury Park parish ward, and

makes the electoral arrangements more administratively convenient for London Colney Parish Council. Following a north / south split (as suggested by London Colney Parish Council) and aligning the parish ward boundary with the manmade boundary of the High Street and the natural boundary of the river, will result in easily identifiable parish ward boundaries.

The new parish ward boundary will result in the following electoral arrangements for London Colney Parish Council:

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Parish Ward</b>	<b>Predicted electorate for 2027</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
London Colney	London Colney East & South	2581	3
London Colney	London Colney North West	3510	4
London Colney	Napsbury Park	1325	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>7416</b>	<b>9</b>

London Colney East & South parish ward will contain 42.37% of the electors in the existing London Colney parish ward, while London Colney North West parish ward will contain 57.63% of the electors. London Colney East & South parish ward will therefore be represented by three parish councillors and London Colney North West parish ward by four parish councillors.

N.B. The predicted electorate above for London Colney East & South parish ward has been calculated based on the outer parish boundaries proposed in Recommendation 3 [a] (to alter the northern boundary of London Colney Parish Council).

#### **Recommendation 4:**

To alter the boundary between Wheathampstead Parish Council and Harpenden Town Council, so that all properties in Long Buftlers, Croftwell, Poynings Close, Aldwickbury School and numbers 82-104 (evens only) Wheathampstead Road, presently part of Wheathampstead Parish Council, become part of Harpenden Parish Council.

- **Detail**

Map: see Appendices 9 and 10 (Wheathampstead Parish Council), and 11 and 12 (Harpenden Town Council)

Parish boundaries and wards:

The outer boundaries of Wheathampstead Parish and Harpenden Town will be altered. Properties in Long Buftlers, Croftwell, Poynings Close, Aldwickbury School and numbers 82-104 (evens only) Wheathampstead Road will be transferred from Wheathampstead Parish to Harpenden Town. This area relates to the existing Aldwickbury parish ward of Wheathampstead Parish Council. Aldwickbury parish ward will therefore be abolished, and the properties will move to Harpenden South parish ward of Harpenden Town Council. The existing Wheathampstead Village parish ward will also be abolished and Wheathampstead Parish Council will become unwarded.

Councillor numbers:

Councillor numbers will be retained for Harpenden Town Council (16 town councillors) and each town ward will continue to be represented by four town councillors. Wheathampstead Parish Council will become unwarded and retain 12 councillors for the whole parish area.

- **Background**

During the recent LGBCE review, some residents in this area informed the LGBCE that they saw themselves as part of Harpenden rather than Wheathampstead. The LGBCE agreed and the Harpenden South district ward boundary was extended. This resulted in the district ward boundaries becoming out of line with the Wheathampstead parish / Harpenden Town boundaries. As per the terms of reference for the CGR, it was the Council's wish to consider bringing those boundaries back into alignment where such amendments are supported by CGR principles.

During the initial CGR consultation, one response was received from Harpenden Town Council in support of the change.

During the second round of consultation, fourteen responses were received on this draft recommendation. Thirteen responses were in favour and one expressed reservation. The general sentiment of those in favour was that the change would formalise their close physical and community connection with Harpenden. The

reservations expressed by one responder cited the negative financial impact the change would have on the budget of Wheathampstead Parish Council.

- **Reasoning**

The transfer of these properties from Wheathampstead Parish Council to Harpenden Town Council will link them with their neighbours and better reflect community identity in the area. The properties are adjacent to other residential properties that are part of the Harpenden Town Council area, and the change will reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area. The parish boundary will be coterminous with the district ward boundary, providing electoral clarity for these residents.

Following the abolition of Aldwickbury parish ward, the area of the existing Wheathampstead Village parish ward will form the whole of Wheathampstead parish. There are no other district / county / parliamentary boundaries crossing this area, and no responses were received relating to the warding arrangements of Wheathampstead Parish Council. Therefore, the parish will become unwarded with 12 parish councillors covering the whole parish (as was the case before the recent LGBCE boundary review).

<b>Parish / Town</b>	<b>Parish / Town Ward</b>	<b>Predicted electorate for 2027</b>	<b>Number of parish / town councillors</b>
Harpenden Town	Harpenden East	5591	4
	Harpenden North	5730	4
	Harpenden South	5565	4
	Harpenden West	6151	4
	Total	23037	16
Wheathampstead Parish	Unwarded	4830	12
	Total	4830	12

## **Recommendation 5 [a]:**

To alter the parish boundary between St Michael Parish Council and St. Stephen Parish Council that presently splits Ragged Hall Lane so that the parish boundary follows the new District Ward boundary running along the A414 westward from its junction with Watford Road to Park Wood, thereby including 2-110 Ragged Hall Lane (evens only) and 74-84 Watford Road (evens only) with St. Stephen Parish Council area.

- **Detail**

Map: see Appendices 13 and 14 (St Michael Parish Council), and 15 and 16 (St. Stephen Parish Council)

Parish boundaries and wards:

The outer boundaries of St Michael parish and St. Stephen parish will be altered. Properties 2-110 Ragged Hall Lane (evens only) and 74-84 Watford Road (evens only) will be transferred from St Michael parish to St. Stephen Parish. This area relates in part to the existing St Michael South East parish ward of St Michael Parish Council. St Michael South East parish ward will therefore be abolished and the properties will move to the Chiswell Green parish ward of St. Stephen Parish Council. Properties will also move into St. Stephen parish from the unparished area.

The remaining parish wards of St Michael North and St Michael South will be retained in St Michael Parish Council.

St. Stephen Parish Council will retain the current Park Street parish ward, and the current Bricket Wood & Chiswell Green parish ward will be split into Bricket Wood parish ward and Chiswell Green parish ward (see Recommendation 5 [c]).

Councillor numbers:

Overall councillor numbers will be retained for St Michael Parish Council (seven parish councillors). Following the abolition of St Michael South East parish ward, St Michael North will be represented by three parish councillors and St Michael South will be represented by four parish councillors (see Recommendation 5 [b]).

St. Stephen Parish Council will also retain the current number of councillors (12 parish councillors). Bricket Wood parish ward will be represented by four parish councillors, Chiswell Green parish ward will be represented by three parish councillors, and Park Street parish ward will be represented by five parish councillors (see Recommendation 5 [c]).

- **Background**

As a result of the recent LGBCE review, the district ward boundary for St. Stephen district ward was extended to include areas that had previously been in Park Street, Redbourn, and Verulam district wards. The LGBCE's final recommendations state:

“A resident suggested amending our draft boundary in the north of St. Stephen, in order that dwellings on both sides of Ragged Hall Lane could be in a single ward. We have accepted that the houses to the north of Ragged Hall Lane form part of the Chiswell Green community and have amended our draft recommendations accordingly, using the A404 and A414 as clear and recognisable boundaries.”

This change resulted in the district ward boundaries becoming out of line with the St Michael parish / St. Stephen parish boundaries. As per the terms of reference for the CGR, it was the Council's wish to consider bringing those boundaries back into alignment where such amendments are supported by CGR principles.

During the CGR's initial public consultation, nine responses were received in relation to an alignment of the parish boundary with the district ward boundary. Six responses opposed any change to the parish boundary for reasons that included the negative financial impact on St Michael Parish Council, the financial impact on household finances and possible impact on selection for school places.

The response from St Michael Parish Council wished to see the existing boundary retained and pointed out that the removal of Ragged Hall Lane properties from within its area would see a reduction of 18% in its council tax base. However, St Michael Parish Council did acknowledge an anomaly in the boundary and suggested that, if the boundaries were to be redrawn, that “[t]he present St Michael South East Ward be recommended for transfer into St. Stephen, with the altered outer parish boundaries meeting along the eastern edge of Park Wood, i.e. matching the District Ward boundary from May 2022”.

Three responses were in favour of changing the parish boundary to align with the district ward boundary. One because they wished to be part of the wider community and the second because they identified with Chiswell Green. The third did not offer a reason.

During the second consultation, three responses were received, two in favour and one against. One of the responses in favour simply supported the change, while the other two responses were from St Michael and St. Stephen Parish Councils. St Michael Parish Council stated that they would prefer the current parish boundary be retained and posed questions about the review process. St. Stephen Parish Council supports the inclusion of all of eastern Ragged Hall Lane within the Parish.

- **Reasoning**

No evidence was submitted during the consultation process to show that the merits of this draft recommendation were ill founded. The new boundary utilises a firm man-

made feature [A414] and unites the whole of eastern Ragged Hall Lane with the remainder of the Chiswell Green community.

Factors such as parish precepts and school places are not included in Government guidance as valid considerations when conducting a CGR.

Including all the eastern end of Ragged Hall Lane within the area of St. Stephen Parish Council is consistent with Government guidance as it will be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area and be effective and convenient. Bringing all these properties into the same parish will bring about clarity and consistency for residents and see representation of that community by common district and parish councillors.

(See Recommendations 5 [b] and 5 [c] for electorate forecasts)

## **Recommendation 5 [b]:**

St Michael Parish Council retains 7 councillors. St Michael North ward is represented by 3 councillors and St Michael South ward by 4 councillors.

- **Detail**

Map: see Appendices 13 and 14

Parish boundaries and wards:

The outer boundary of St Michael Parish Council will be altered (see Recommendation 5 [a]). This will abolish the parish ward of St Michael South East, with that area being transferred to Chiswell Green parish ward of St. Stephen Parish Council. The existing parish wards of St Michael North and St Michael South will be retained.

Councillor numbers:

The number of councillors on St Michael Parish Council will be retained at seven. St Michael North parish ward will be represented by three councillors and St Michael South parish ward by four councillors.

- **Background**

Recommendation 5 [a] results in the abolition of St Michael South East parish ward.

During the second round of consultation, St Michael Parish Council submitted a response indicating a wish to retain the current outer parish boundary. However they advised that, if St Michael South East parish ward was to be abolished, they “would err on the side of wishing to retain seven parish councillors in any outcome of the CGR”.

No other responses referred to the warding arrangements for St Michael Parish Council.

- **Reasoning**

Following the abolition of St Michael South East parish ward, the electorate of St Michael Parish Council will reduce by approximately 89 electors (based on the predicted 2027 electorate).

Legislation states that the minimum number of councillors a parish council can have is five. However, there is no legislative guidance in relation to the number of electors per parish councillor.

The change to the parish will result in the following electoral arrangements for St Michael Parish Council:



<b>Parish</b>	<b>Parish Ward</b>	<b>Predicted electorate for 2027</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
St Michael	St Michael North	143	3
	St Michael South	152	4
	Total	295	7

St Michael North parish ward will contain 48.47% of the electors in the parish, and St Michael South will contain 51.53% of electors. St Michael South parish ward covers a larger geographical area than St Michael North parish ward, and has a slightly larger electorate. Therefore, St Michael North parish ward will be represented by three councillors and St Michael South parish ward by four councillors.

### **Recommendation 5 [c]:**

Bricket Wood & Chiswell Green parish ward of St. Stephen Parish Council is divided into two parish wards named Bricket Wood parish ward and Chiswell Green parish ward.

- **Detail:**

Map: see Appendices 15 and 16

Parish ward names and boundaries:

The existing Bricket Wood & Chiswell Green parish ward will be divided into two parish wards: Bricket Wood parish ward and Chiswell Green parish ward. The boundary between the wards will run south and east along Noke Lane and then follow the North Orbital (A405) northwards.

Councillor numbers:

Bricket Wood parish ward will be represented by four parish councillors and Chiswell Green parish ward by three parish councillors.

- **Background:**

From St. Stephen Parish Council's response to the second round of consultation:

"That Bricket Wood East and West should merge into one Ward but that Chiswell Green should remain separate"

No other responses were received regarding the warding arrangements of St. Stephen Parish Council.

- **Reasoning:**

It is important that warding arrangements be clearly and readily understood by, and have relevance for, the electorate in a parish. They should reflect clear physical and social differences within a parish, whether urban or rural: one parish but comprising different parts. Aligning the parish ward boundary with the manmade boundaries of Noke Lane and the North Orbital (A405), will result in easily identifiable parish ward boundaries.

The new parish ward boundary will result in the following electoral arrangements for St. Stephen Parish Council:

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Parish Ward</b>	<b>Predicted electorate for 2027</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>

St. Stephen	Bricket Wood	4014	4
St. Stephen	Chiswell Green	2747	3
St. Stephen	Park Street	5110	5
Total		11871	12

Bricket Wood parish ward will contain 59.37% of the electors in the existing Bricket Wood & Chiswell Green parish ward, while Chiswell Green parish ward will contain 40.63% of the electors. Bricket Wood parish ward will therefore be represented by four parish councillors and Chiswell Green parish ward by three parish councillors.

N.B. The predicted electorate above for Chiswell Green parish ward has been calculated based on the outer parish boundaries proposed in Recommendation 5 [a] (to alter the parish boundary between St Michael Parish Council and St. Stephen Parish Council that presently splits Ragged Hall Lane).

## Warding arrangements

- ***Colney Heath Parish Council***

The outer parish boundary will be altered to match the Colney Heath district ward boundary. The current parish wards of Colney Heath and Tyttenhanger will be retained. The existing parish wards of Alban Park and Hill End will be abolished with these areas becoming part of the unparished urban area of central St Albans.

**Map:** see Appendices 3 and 4

**Background and reasoning:** See Recommendations 1 [a] and 1 [b] for further information.

### Electorate forecast:

Parish / Town Council	Parish / Town ward	Number of councillors	Number of councillors changed or retained?	Predicted electorate for 2027	Electorate per councillor
Colney Heath	Alban Park - abolished	n/a	Area unparished (see Recommendation 1 [a])	713	n/a
	Colney Heath	6	Changed – to reflect the new electorate proportions	2041	341
	Hill End - abolished	n/a	Area unparished (see Recommendation 1 [a])	1746	n/a
	Tyttenhanger	1	Retained	190	190
	<b>Total</b>	7	Changed – reduction in area / electorate size of the parish	2231	

- ***Harpenden Rural Parish Council***

The outer boundary of Harpenden Rural parish will be retained and the parish will remain unwarded.

**Map:** see Appendix 17

Background and reasoning: Submissions were received from Harpenden Rural Parish Council during both rounds of consultation requesting that the current arrangements be retained. No other submissions were received regarding the warding arrangements of Harpenden Rural Parish Council. The current arrangements appear to reflect the community interests of the area and provide effective and convenient governance.

**Electorate forecast:**

<b>Parish / Town Council</b>	<b>Parish / Town ward</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Number of councillors changed or retained?</b>	<b>Predicted electorate for 2027</b>	<b>Electorate per councillor</b>
Harpenden Rural	Unwarded	5	Retained	341	68
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	Retained	<b>341</b>	

- ***Harpenden Town Council***

Harpenden Town Council will retain the current parish wards of Harpenden East, Harpenden North, Harpenden South, and Harpenden West. The outer parish boundary, and Harpenden South parish ward boundary, will be altered to include the area which currently forms the Aldwickbury ward of Wheathampstead Parish Council. (See Recommendation 4)

**Map:** see Appendices 11 and 12

**Background and reasoning:** No responses were received relating to the warding arrangements of Harpenden Town Council. The current arrangements appear to reflect the community interests of the area and provide effective and convenient governance. The properties at the eastern edge of Harpenden South parish ward are adjacent to properties in the former Aldwickbury ward, and therefore Harpenden South parish ward will be extended to incorporate the former Aldwickbury ward.

**Electorate forecast:**

<b>Parish / Town Council</b>	<b>Parish / Town ward</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Number of councillors changed or retained?</b>	<b>Predicted electorate for 2027</b>	<b>Electorate per councillor</b>
Harpenden Town	Harpenden East	4	Retained	5591	1398
	Harpenden North	4	Retained	5730	1433
	Harpenden South	4	Retained	5565	1391
	Harpenden West	4	Retained	6151	1538
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	Retained	<b>23037</b>	

- **London Colney Parish Council**

The outer boundary of London Colney parish will be altered as follows:

- the northern boundary of London Colney Parish Council will be altered to run along the A414 from London Colney roundabout westward to its junction with the east midlands railway line, thereby including the following presently unparished properties within the London Colney Parish Council area: numbers 1-24 North Cottages and 10, 12, 14 and 37 Suffolk Close. (See Recommendation 3 [a])

The parish will be divided into three parish wards: London Colney East & South (new ward), London Colney North West (new ward), and Napsbury Park (extended ward).

**Map:** see Appendices 7 and 8

**Background and reasoning:** See Recommendation 3 [a] and 3 [b] for further information.

**Electorate forecast:**

Parish / Town Council	Parish / Town ward	Number of councillors	Number of councillors changed or retained?	Predicted electorate for 2027	Electorate per councillor
London Colney	London Colney East & South	3	Changed - New ward	2581	860
	London Colney North West	4	Changed - New ward	3510	878
	Napsbury Park	2	Retained	1325	663
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	Retained	<b>7416</b>	

- **Redbourn Parish Council**

The outer boundary of Redbourn parish will be retained and the parish will remain unwarded.

**Map:** see Appendix 18

**Background and reasoning:** During the first round of consultation, a response was submitted by Redbourn Parish Council requesting that the current arrangements be retained. No other submissions were received in relation to the warding arrangements of Redbourn Parish Council. The current arrangements appear to reflect the community interests of the area and provide effective and convenient governance.

**Electorate forecast:**

Parish / Town Council	Parish / Town ward	Number of councillors	Number of councillors changed or retained?	Predicted electorate for 2027	Electorate per councillor
Redbourn	Beaumont	6	Retained	2367	395
	Nicholls	6	Retained	1787	298
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	Retained	<b>4154</b>	



- **Sandridge Parish Council**

The outer boundary of Sandridge parish will be altered as follows:

- the outer boundary of Sandridge Parish Council will be altered to include the presently unparished properties at numbers 1, 2 and 3 Rose Walk within the Parish. (See Recommendation 2 [a])

The parish will have five parish wards. The existing parish wards of Beech Bottom, Marshalswick West, and Sandridge Village will be retained. The existing Marshalswick East & Jersey Farm parish ward will be split into Jersey Farm parish ward and Marshalswick East parish ward.

**Map:** see Appendices 5 and 6

Background and reasoning: See Recommendation 2 [b] for further information.

**Electorate forecast:**

Parish / Town Council	Parish / Town ward	Number of councillors	Number of councillors changed or retained?	Predicted electorate for 2027	Electorate per councillor
Sandridge	Beech Bottom	1	Retained	122	122
	Jersey Farm	3	Changed - New ward	2513	838
	Marshalswick East	5	Changed - New ward	3267	653
	Marshalswick West	3	Retained	1883	628
	Sandridge Village	2	Retained	1346	673
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Retained</b>	<b>9131</b>	

- **St Michael Parish Council**

The outer boundary of St Michael parish will be altered to exclude the area that currently forms St Michael South East parish ward (see Recommendation 5 [a]). St Michael South East parish ward will be abolished, and that area will be transferred to the Chiswell Green ward of St. Stephen parish. The other existing St Michael parish wards of St Michael North and St Michael South will be retained.

**Map:** see Appendices 13 and 14

**Background and reasoning:** See Recommendations 5 [a] and 5 [b] for further information.

**Electorate forecast:**

Parish / Town Council	Parish / Town ward	Number of councillors	Number of councillors changed or retained?	Predicted electorate for 2027	Electorate per councillor
St Michael	St Michael North	3	Retained	143	48
	St Michael South	4	Changed - Increase of 1 councillor as a result of the abolition of St Michael South East ward (1 councillor)	152	38
	St Michael South East - abolished	n/a	Parish ward abolished (see Recommendation 5 [a])	89	n/a
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	Retained	<b>295</b>	

- **St. Stephen Parish Council**

The outer boundary of St. Stephen parish will be altered as follows:

- the parish boundary will follow the St. Stephen district ward boundary along the A414 westward from its junction with Watford Road to Park Wood, thereby including 2-110 Ragged Hall Lane (evens only) and 74-84 Watford Road (evens only) in St. Stephen parish (see Recommendation 5 [a]).

The existing Park Street parish ward will be retained. The existing Bricket Wood & Chiswell Green parish ward will be split into Bricket Wood parish ward and Chiswell Green parish ward (see Recommendation 5 [c]).

**Map:** see Appendices 15 and 16

Background and reasoning: See Recommendation 5 [a] for further information.

**Electorate forecast:**

Parish / Town Council	Parish / Town ward	Number of councillors	Number of councillors changed or retained?	Predicted electorate for 2027	Electorate per councillor
St. Stephen	Bricket Wood	4	Changed - New ward	3994	1331
	Chiswell Green	3	Changed - New ward	2780	695
	Park Street	5	Retained	5107	1021
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	Retained	<b>11881</b>	

- **Wheathampstead Parish Council**

The outer boundary of Wheathampstead parish will be altered to exclude the area that currently forms Aldwickbury parish ward. The existing Aldwickbury parish ward will be abolished, and this area will be transferred to the Harpenden South ward of Harpenden Town Council (see Recommendation 4). The existing Wheathampstead Village parish ward will also be abolished and Wheathampstead parish will become unwarded.

**Map:** see Appendices 9 and 10

**Background and reasoning:** See Recommendation 4 for further information about the abolition of Aldwickbury parish ward. Following the abolition of Aldwickbury parish ward, the area of the existing Wheathampstead Village parish ward will form the whole of Wheathampstead parish. There are no other district / county / parliamentary boundaries crossing this area, and no responses were received relating to the warding arrangements of Wheathampstead Parish Council. Therefore, the parish will become unwarded with 12 parish councillors covering the whole parish (as was the case before the recent LGBCE boundary review).

**Electorate forecast:**

Parish / Town Council	Parish / Town ward	Number of councillors	Number of councillors changed or retained?	Predicted electorate for 2027	Electorate per councillor
Wheathampstead	Aldwickbury - abolished	n/a	Parish ward abolished (see Recommendation 4)	173	n/a
	Unwarded	12	Changed - The parish has become unwarded with the abolition of Aldwickbury ward (1 councillor) and Wheathampstead Village ward (11 councillors)	4830	403
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	Retained	<b>4830</b>	

## **Consequential matters**

### ***Recommendations to the Local Government Boundary Commission***

The Council will submit a request to the LGBCE to alter the district ward boundary between Marshalswick West district ward and Marshalswick East & Jersey Farm district ward so that the district boundary aligns with the new outer Sandridge Parish Council boundary. This amendment would result in 1-3 Rose Walk moving from Marshalswick West district ward to Marshalswick East & Jersey Farm district ward. Making the parish and district ward boundaries co-terminous would better serve the interests of effective and convenient local government in that area. Due to the timescales involved, this request will be submitted to the LGBCE for consideration after the forthcoming 4 May 2023 elections. The 4 May 2023 elections will therefore be run on the new parish boundary and the current district ward boundary.

### ***Transfer of assets***

Once final recommendations have been approved and confirmed by the Council, a community governance review reorganisation order will be made. This order will cover any consequential matters which may arise from the review such as the transfer of property and other assets in areas where parish boundaries will be altered. The agreement of any such consequential matters will be undertaken in discussion with any council affected, and with particular reference to *The Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008* and *The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, part 4, chapter 3, section 99*.

## ***Election cycle***

Elections of all parish councillors for the parishes of:

- Colney Heath
- Harpenden Rural
- Harpenden Town
- London Colney
- Redbourn
- Sandridge
- St Michael
- St. Stephen
- Wheathampstead

shall be held on 4 May 2023, and every four years thereafter.

## ***Commencement dates***

This final recommendations report will be reviewed by Full Council on 7 December 2022, and Council will confirm which final recommendations will be approved and included in the reorganisation order.

Subject to approval by Council on 7 December 2022, the final recommendations come into force in January 2023 after the publication of the St Albans City & District (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2023.

For administrative and financial purposes, the recommendations come into force on 1 April 2023.

For electoral purposes, the recommendations come into force the day after the St Albans City & District (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2023 is laid. The electoral register will be published on the new Parish / Town boundaries and Parish Town ward boundaries on 1 February 2023. The 4 May 2023 elections will be based on the new boundaries and councillor numbers.

## **Contact details**

Further information about the CGR is available online: <https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/community-governance-review>.

Alternatively, contact the Electoral Services team on [elections@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:elections@stalbans.gov.uk) / 01727 819550.